

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NASSAU 0154

INFO FOR AID/W

FROM AMBASSADOR SCHWARTZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, BF, US
SUBJ: BARTAD TURNING OVER CEREMONY - JANUARY 18, 1978

REF: (A) STATE 6904 (B) NASSAU 0045

1. THE BAHAMAS AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (BARTAD) PROJECT FACILITIES WERE FORMERLY TRANSFERRED TO THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT AT MID-DAY CEREMONIES JANUARY 18, 1978 AT THE BARTAD PROJECT SITE ON NORTH ANDROS, ANDROS ISLAND. THE CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY SPECIALLY INVITED GUESTS OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES GEORGE SMITH AND ALSO ABOUT 100 MEMBERS OF THE NORTH ANDROSIAN COMMUNITY. GCOB DIGNITARIES ATTENDED INCLUDING THE HONORABLE ARTHUR D. HANNA, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE, WHO DELIVERED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS; MINISTER GEORGE SMITH; A. LOFTUS ROKER, MINISTER OF WORKS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES AND MP FOR NICHOLL'S TOWN (NORTH ANDROS) AND THE BERRY ISLANDS; EARL A. DEVEAUX, CO-MANAGER, BARTAD PROJECT; LIVINGSTONE A. SMITH, COMMISSIONER FOR NORTH ANDROS; AND CLAUDE E.M. SMITH, DIRECTOR
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OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

2. I HEADED THE U.S. DELEGATION OF DIGNITARIES ATTENDING AND DELIVERED THE PRINCIPAL REMARKS ON BEHALF OF OUR GOVERNMENT. OTHER U.S. DIGNITARIES INCLUDED DR. FRANK MADDEN, CO-MANAGER, BARTAD PROJECT; RUSH W. TAYLOR, JR., DCM; JOHN M. GARNER, ECON/

COMM/POL OFFICER; CMDR. HUDSON MCGEE, NAVAL LIAISON OFFICER, US EMBASSY NASSAU; AND LT. CMDR. ROBERT COLEGROVE, ASSIT. OFFICER IN CHARGE, AUTECH BASE, ANDROS.

4. THE REMARKS I DELIVERED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE MR. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER ROKER, MINISTER SMITH, DR. MADDEN, MR. DEVEAUX, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT IS A REAL PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN NORTH ANDROS THIS MORNING AND IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO REPRESENT MY GOVERNMENT AT THIS CEREMONY. TO ME AND MY COLLEAGUES IN NASSAU AND TO THOSE WHO SERVED AT THE EMBASSY BEFORE US, BARTAD REPRESENTS A VERY REAL SUCCESS STORY AND A SIGNIFICANT CHAPTER IN BAHAMIAN AMERICAN RELATIONS. AT BARTAD BAHAMIANS AND AMERICANS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO CREATE AN AGRICULTURAL CENTER WHICH CAN BE THE CAPSTONE OF BAHAMIAN AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND WHOSE POTENTIAL FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE BAHAMIAN PEOPLE IS ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO BE TAPPED.

THE BARTAD PROJECT IS NOT UNIQUE IN HAVING HAD ITS GROWING PAINS OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS. WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE AMONG U.S. AID PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, HOWEVER, WAS THE FLEXIBILITY AND IMAGINATION OF THOSE CHARGED WITH ITS MANAGEMENT, AND PRINCIPALLY THE PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS DR. FRANK MADDEN AND MR. EARL DEVEAUX. SOME YEARS AGO THESE TWO GENTLEMEN AND THEIR STAFF REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PROJECTS ORIGINAL PURPOSE - THE PRODUCTION OF BEEF CATTLE - WAS FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS UNFEASIBLE. THEY COULD WELL HAVE STOPPED THERE AND TODAY'S CEREMONY WOULD HAVE ONLY A HOLLOW AND ILLUSARY MEANING. THEY, HOWEVER, SAW OTHER POSSIBILITIES AND WITH THE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS THEY AMENDED THEIR OBJECTIVES TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR RESOURCES AND THE AGRICULTURAL REALITIES OF NORTH ANDROS AND INDEED THE BAHAMAS. THIS DECISION HAVING BEEN MADE THEY AND THEIR COLLEAGUES WENT ON TO ACHIEVE THEIR THREE PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVES:

1. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 500 ACRE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.
2. THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BY SPECIFIC PROGRAMS TO (A) ESTABLISH 16 PILOT TEST FARMS, (B) PROVIDE FOR IMPROVED LAND TENURE, AND (C) MAKE CREDIT AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS, AND (D) ESTABLISH A FARMERS' COOPERATIVE.
3. THE TRAINING OF BAHAMIANS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION.

IN YOUR BUDGET COMMUNICATION READ TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY LAST NOVEMBER YOU SAID MR. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THAT "SELF RELIANCE IN FOOD IS FUNDAMENTAL TO SUSTAIN ECONOMIC

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE BAHAMAS." I SHARE THAT VIEW AND AM CONFIDENT THAT THE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE BARTAD PROJECT, TOGETHER WITH OTHER RESOURCES, WILL BE VITAL IN ATTAINING THIS SELF RELIANCE.

IN THIS REGARD IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS CEREMONY TODAY AND ONE I ATTENDED IN FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA ON JANUARY 8. AT THAT CEREMONY THE PRIME MINISTER PUBLICLY OPENED THE SECOND PRECLEARANCE FACILITY IN THE BAHAMAS. THAT UNIT STAFFED BY AMERICAN CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND AGRICULTURAL

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INFO FOR AID/W

FROM AMBASSADOR SCHWARTZ

OFFICIALS WILL PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN BOLSTERING THE BAHAMIAN TOURISM INDUSTRY. BOTH CEREMONIES REPRESENT A COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE EMBASSY AND MY GOVERNMENT TO HELP THE BAHAMIAN PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES AND THIS IN FACT IS WHAT AID IS ALL ABOUT AND WHAT IT IS INTENDED FOR. IT IS MY HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE WE CAN CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY AREAS IN WHICH WE CAN IMPLEMENT THIS TYPE OF COOPERATION. FOR MY PART, I SHALL BE ATTENTIVE, RECEPTIVE AND A SYMPATHETIC ADVOCATE.

IN CLOSING, I SHOULD LIKE ONCE MORE TO COMMEND THE MEN AND WOMEN, BAHAMIAN AND AMERICAN, SCIENTISTS AND FARMERS, WHO FROM THE ROCK AND SCRUB OF THIS LAND HAVE BUILT THE PROJECT WE SEE HERE TODAY. AND IN COMMENDING THEM I SHOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THOSE WHOSE TASK IT WILL BE NOT JUST TO PRESERVE, BUT TO EXPAND WHAT, IN MY OPINION, IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EXPERIMENTS IN COOPERATION THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE EVER EMBARKED UPON. I KNOW THAT YOU WILL ALL JOIN ME IN WISHING THEM GOOD LUCK AND GOD'S

SPEED IN THEIR ENDEAVORS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. END QUOTE

5. DPM HANNA IN HIS REMARKS POINTED OUT THE SUBSIDIARY
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BENEFITS WHICH THE BARTAD PROJECT HAS PRODUCED INCLUDING
BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL FARMING; RESEARCH INTO
LAND PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT; ECONOMIC ANALYSES OF
VARIOUS ACTIVITIES TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPE AND SIZE OF
FARMS AND FARMING SYSTEMS ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO AFFORD
A SATISFACTORY STANDARD OF LIVING FOR FARMING FAMILIES;
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING TO FARMERS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT. HANNA COMMENDED
THE WORK DONE BY DR. MADDEN AND MR. DEVEAUX
NOTING "THEY HAVE GIVEN THE BEST OF THEIR TIME,
TALENT AND RESOURCES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BARTAD
AS A VIABLE AND SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISE." HE ALSO
PAID TRIBUTE TO AID, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, AND
THE WESTERN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
"WHICH HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR BARTAD AND
TO ENSURE ITS FUTURE PERFORMANCE. HE ALSO SAID THAT
"BARTAD WILL GO ON CONTRIBUTING IN LARGE MEASURE TO
THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF BAHAMIAN AGRICULTURE,
AND THEREBY TO THE DIVERSIFICATION AND STRENGTHENING
OF OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY."
TAYLOR

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